

09/936900

JC16 Rec'd PCT/PTO SEP 19 2001

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*Amend  
NAU*

In re the Application of:

**Makoto INOUE et al.**

Serial No.: TBA

Filed: Herewith

For: DISTRIBUTION SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

Atty. Dkt. No.: 01309.00015

U.S. National Stage of

International Application No.:

PCT/JP01/0323

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

BOX PCT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination and calculation of any claim fees, please amend the instant application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claims 3-11 and 13-27 , with the following amended claims:

3. (Amended) The distribution support equipment in accordance with claim 1, the information processing means is provided with directed-at-dealer ordering means for automatically placing orders to dealers serving as order receivers of respective merchandise routes according to the order signals received from the customer at a time.
4. (Amended) The distribution support equipment in accordance with claim 1, wherein the information processing means is provided with directed-at-supplier and wholesaler ordering means for allowing a dealer having received orders from the customer to automatically place orders to different suppliers or wholesalers depending upon product numbers and categories of

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